

WEEKLY DENTAL UPDATE



SPECIAL EDITION

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Passing of a Shipmate

PASSING OF CAPT RICHARD JOSEPH GRISIUS, DC, USN (Ret)



Shipmates, it is with deep regret that I inform you of the passing of **Captain Richard Joseph Grisius, DC, USN (Ret)**.

Richard J. Grisius (87) passed away peacefully on July 7, 2023, with his wife of 64 years, Sylvia, lovingly by his side.

Richard was a first-generation American born to Lithuanian immigrants, Stanley and Magdalena in Chicago. While growing up in the “windy city,” he developed lifelong friendships and a regard for hard work. While just a teen, he fibbed about his age in order to get his first job on the loading dock. Throughout high school and college, he worked in a cannery, as a service station attendant and a caddie.

Education was always important to Richard, and he was a proud product of his Jesuit education, attending Loyola Academy, Loyola University and Loyola School of Dentistry.

It was in high school that he met the love of his life, Sylvia Williams, when they were just 15 and 16. They married on July 4, 1959. The very next day he began his first assignment in the U.S. Navy.

Over the course of his 26-year naval career, he served in Taipei, Taiwan, Great Lakes, IL, aboard the aircraft carrier USS Shangri-La (CVA-38), and then the National Naval Dental School, Bethesda, MD for a Prosthodontics residency. After an assignment with the Second Marine Division, he returned to Bethesda for a residency in Maxillofacial Prosthetics. He subsequently was appointed as the director of Graduate Prosthodontics at the National Naval Dental School. During this time, he earned a Masters in Higher Education from George Washington University and was promoted to Captain. His last duty assignment was as Chief of Dental Service and mentor for the General Practice Residency program at the Oakland Naval Hospital in Oakland, CA. In recognition of his meritorious service, he was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

He retired from the Navy in the Fall of 1981 and joined the staff at Georgetown University as Director of Graduate Prosthodontics. In 1990, when Georgetown School of Dentistry announced its closure, he became the Director of Dental Medicine and Surgery at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA. After retiring from Geisinger Medical Center, he instructed at the Graduate Prosthodontic program at the University of Maryland on a part time basis.

Richard served as president of the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics in 1988 and was recipient of its prestigious Ackerman Award in 1995. He was an examiner on the American Board of Prosthodontics from 1991 to 1998 and served as president from 1997 to 1998. He also had the honor of serving as the president of the Academy of Prosthodontics from 2001 to 2002. He was a fellow in the American College of Prosthodontics. Among his many academic accomplishments, he published numerous professional journal articles and textbooks chapters.

While his professional achievements were notable, his stated greatest accomplishments were the bonds he formed with his family, colleagues, residents, patients, and friends. Richard had a prodigious work ethic that he instilled in all of his children. While he was often serious and focused on accomplishments, he also knew how to live in the moment and appreciate the simple joys of life. He had a gregarious nature and loved to tell jokes and share laughter. No one was a stranger to Richard, and he treated everyone with equal respect. He was a generous and caring person who earnestly embraced his roles as husband, father, grandfather, doctor, teacher, mentor, and friend.

Richard is survived by his devoted wife, Sylvia, his eldest son Richard of Bethesda, MD, his daughter, Margaret (Stephen) of McLean, VA, Michael (Rhonda) of Vienna, VA, Thomas (Heidi) of Purcellville, VA, and Timothy (Charis) of Bethesda, MD. He was blessed with 11 grandchildren: Nicholas, Nathan, Katie, Stephen, Julia, Matthew, Clayton, Henry, Isabel, Audrey, and David.

Richard loved Sylvia dearly; she was the light of his life. Her strength and devotion caring for him over the last 19 years since his cancer diagnosis were truly extraordinary, and their relationship was one he cherished. Richard touched the lives of so many - he will never be forgotten.

Richard J. Grisius DDS, M.Ed., CAPT. USN (Ret)

Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Location: Arlington National Cemetery report to Administrative Building
1 Memorial Ave
Arlington, Virginia 22211

Time: 8:00 am arrival with service at 9:00 am.

Inform Security Gate you are attending Burial Service. 100% ID check.

Reception to follow:

Location:

The Army and Navy Club (*on Farragut Square*)
901 Seventeenth Street NW
Washington DC 20006

Time: 11:00 am

Valet parking at reception.

Jackets and collared shirts required. No jeans or athletic shoes.

Rest in Peace Captain Grisius

W. D. Brafford
RDML, DC, USN
Chief, Navy Dental Corps